



Coastal Healthcare Alliance MaineHealth

May 11, 2021

Bill Montejo, Director, Division of Licensing and Certification
Larry Carbonneau, Manager, Healthcare Oversight
Rich Lawrence, Senior Healthcare Financial Analyst
Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services
Department of Health and Human Services
41 Anthony Avenue
State House Station # 11
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

RE: Request for Determination of CON Applicability of a Project to Expand and Renovate
Pen Bay Medical Center's Emergency Department

Dear Mr. Montejo, Mr. Carbonneau, and Mr. Lawrence,

This letter summarizes Pen Bay Medical Center's (PBMC) project to expand and renovate its emergency department (ED). The project will add eight-thousand (8,000) square feet to PBMC's ED expanding the department's capacity from thirteen (13) exam rooms to twenty-five (25) exam rooms. Three (3) of those twenty-five (25) exam rooms will be dedicated behavioral health bays.

PBMC requests the Department's determination of CON applicability. PBMC believes that this project is not reviewable by the State under The State of Maine's Certificate of Need requirement because:

- The project does not result in a new healthcare facility as defined in 22 MRSA §328 (8) or a new health service as defined in 22 MRSA §328 (17-A). PBMC currently provides emergency services at its campus in Rockport where the proposed expansion will occur.
- The project does not exceed the 2021 Certificate of Need capital threshold of \$13,076,656.

Reason for the Project

Increasing demand for emergency services and the evolving practice of providing emergency services have put a burden on the existing eight-thousand-four-hundred (8,400) square foot emergency department at PBMC. This burden translates into long-wait times and a sub-optimal patient experience. As the only urgent care/ED in the immediate area, the community relies on PBMC for urgent and emergent care services.

PBMC's ED has not had a significant renovation since 1997. Since that time, the composition of care provided in the ED has changed. There are more behavioral health visits and specialty visits to the ED today than there were in 1997. Behavioral health services specifically require an advanced facility designed to prevent harm to the patient and others.

This project will enable PBMC to more effectively and efficiently meet the demand for emergency services of our patients in Knox County, particularly those with behavioral health needs. The expanded ED will also provide additional space to accommodate our patients and their families.

PBMC hopes to begin the project in July 2021 and expects to complete the project in early 2023.

All communications regarding this request may be directed to:

Al Green
Vice President of Strategy and Business Development
MaineHealth
110 Free St
Portland, Maine 04101
agreen@mainehealth.org
207-662-3689

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Al Green', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Alexander M. Green
Vice President of Strategy and Business Development

Cc: Mark Harris, Chief Planning Officer
Beth Kelsch, General Counsel
Denise Needham, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Coastal Healthcare Alliance